



Start of [Jewish citizens in Oberbrechen 1711-1941].

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[Jewish citizens in Oberbrechen 1721-1941

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Notes to Partial Translation of :

Eugen Caspary: Juedische Mitbuerger in Oberbrechen 1711-1941
(Jewish Citizens in Oberbrechen 1711-1941)

Please note that this is only a partial translation dealing primarily with the nmaed inhabitants. Much is not translated because of the sheer volume and a certain repetitiveness as well as dealing with generally known political matters.

The entire excerpt is from a volume:

Geschichte von Oberbrechen - Hellmuth Gensicke & Egon Eichhorn.
This book was published 1975, which date must be born in mind when the author speaks of ".....today lives.....".

Dates have been given in the american manner for clarity
(month/day/year)

Minor abbreviations have been made: O - Oberbrechen

b - born

d - died

. bd.-buried

Apparently there was no jewish cemetary at O. and burials were made a Weyer, a neighboring town.

This history is the most verbose tr. has encountered; the writer meant well but writes in the lengthy german manner.



Jewish Citizens in Oberbrechen 1711 - 1941 - Eugen Caspary 1975

Introduction:

To trace the tracks of the jews who lived and worked in Oberbrechen was a tedious, time-consuming project always subject to error and difficulties. Often it seemed impossible to put all the pieces of such a mosaic together. In spite of all these difficulties it was managed to put together a readable history.

Because of the sad fate of so many of the jews and the unlikely-hood of their ever returning ti was felt that this work must be completed.

Holiday and every day, joyous and sad days, peace and war, were lived together by christians and jews for almost two and a half centuries according to documentation. For at least eight centuries in Oberbrechen was the center of economic foundation, refuge, etc.; in one word: Home.

Since 1848 & 1860 they were emancipated as in the rest of Germany, but it is likely that here they were socially acceptable much earlier. And even tho for a long time they were looked upon as strangers, they hardly felt themselves so since for many years they seemed to ahve participated in the life of the community.

Apparently they felt themselves as citizens already in the 18th. century, and they were indeed similar in character ot the people between Limburg & Camberg, friendly and unfriendly, and not different due to their ancestry of religion. However the jews had some characteristics forced upon them by the church, the state, and society since the Middle Ages, as to the means of earning their livelyhood, and of course their own religous practices.

As everywhere the national socialist state erected it's total apparatus of might the jewish inhabitants of Oberbrechen were also subject to the terro that was aimed at the extinction of the jewish people. In the middle of the 20th century that was the crown of a century's development of decency, humanity & freedom these hopes were dashed. In view of this history it is gratifying to learn that the chain of generations of former citizens continues in the USA, South America & Israel, the land of the jewish fathers.

Integration & Equality - The Jews in Oberbrechen

(1866 - 1918: Kingdom of Prussia, German Empire

For the jews of Nassau the ending of the Duchy in 1866 and the change to the Kingdom of Prussia was no disadvantage. In fact, the change to a greater state-union gave them what they wanted towards integration & equality since the time of the Great Elector (1640 - 1680) that had already existed in Prussia. This is not the place to recite the history of the jews in Prussia and the German Empire (1871 - 1918). However it must be stated that the Hohenzollern state since the end of the 17th century gave the jews greater opportunity economically, socially, occupationally & personally than the spiritual state of the Archbishops and the Electors of Trier. The emancipation in the miniatur state of Nassau, between Rhine, Main & Lahn, could only come about in the 40's of the 19th century under the pressures of the revolutionary striving of the people seeking more liberal government, which actually only came about due to the revolution of 1848.

In Prussia the emancipation came earlier, prepared, in spite of an absolutistic state, by the dialog between the german writer Goffhold Ephraim Lessing and the jewish philosopher Moses Mendelsohn. In 1783 Chr.W. Dohm in his book: 'About The Civil Improvement Of The Jews' stated that the european jew-politics is a remainder of medieval barbarism, as a result of which their jews were deprived of any respect and killed, their vices made necessary & punished. This black-and-white painting based on ancient biases must finally be ended and reforms put in place to suit present conditions. Dohm's suggestions were: Voiding all special laws concerning jews: restriction on residence, special taxes, civil responsibility, freedom of occupation as well as freedom of trade & merchandising... admission to any trade, the right to own land and farms, the abolishing of ghettos, the abolishment of restricted areas of settlement (in the east).

The jews shall be able to attend schools and academies. And since citizenship rights and duties are closely related they shall also be required to serve in the army. In one point Dohm believes that to break thru to free commercial & economic activity, jews be encouraged to take up trades by help from the state, so that they can finally break free of their traditional trade of peddling and usury. These points, stressed by the french revolution, peaked

in the edict of Count Hardenberg of 11 March 1812, to give jews the same freedoms and rights as the christians, and to require of them the same duties of all citizens of the prussian state, in cluding military service.

The development of the jewish problem decades after 1815 is much too complicated to be given here. However according to the constitution of the new German Empire , following the national assembly of 1848, all citizens would be equal - also the jews. But this united and democratic Germany remained a pretty dream. And the Judenproblem still sought solution.

How did the jews of Oberbrechen live in their home-town between 1866 & 1918? Before I attempt to answer this question I will list the jewish inhabitants of this community; the family-historical data exceeds the time-period given in this chapter.

The first jews listed in the church records of the parish Oberbrechen is the couple Samuel Jessel (b.1760 - 1770-?) and Jettchen Joseph. The following children of this couple are named:

1. Seligmann Samuel, since 1842 Seligmann Stern
born 1790 in O.,d.5/17/1870-0.,buried at Weyer.
2. Gumbrich Samuel, since 1841 Gubrich Stern, b.June 1807 O.,
d. 12/30/1878 at O.,buried at Weyer

Seligmann Stern, trader, m. Zippora Abraham (daughter of trader (Handelssmann) Abraham Joel & his wife Brendel né Nathan,
b.9/7/1806 Kroeffelbach/Kr.Wetzlar
d.3/5/1892 O, buried Weyer

This couple had four (4) children:

1. Judith Seligmann, since 1841 Judith Stern,b.7/3/1829-0.
2. Seligmann Abraham, since 1841 Abraham Stern, b.7/11/1831-0.
d. 4/26/1867 - O.,buried Weyer
3. Samuel Stern, b.6/29/1842-0.,d.4/23/1904-0.,buried Weyer
4. Julius Stern, b.10/10/1851-0,

Of Judith & Julius Stern one knows only that they attended the local Volksschule (prim.school). Nothing of their life is known. Their two brothers Abraham & Samuel continued the trading and mechanising tradition of their father in their hometown. On 11/18/1863



Abraham married Regina Michel (dtr.of the trader David Michel and his wife Sarah né Michel)

b.4/12/1854 Freilingen/Westerwald,d.0.12/30/1902,bd.Weyer

The couple had three (3) children:

1. Siegmund Stern,b.0.9/17/1864,d.0.6/25/1930, bd.Weyer
2. Isaak Stern,b.O. 10/28/1865,d.0.12/27/1930, bd.Weyer
3. Abraham Stern,b. 0.4/22/1867,d.0.6/6/1868,bd.Weyer (In the book of the dead (Totenbuch) is the following entry: Last child of this marriage since the father died 4/26 before the circumcision of the child)

Siegmund Stern, cigar maker and later merchant, was married to Ida Levita (b.1/9/1863 Cramberg). In 1937 the emigrated together with their daughter Cilly and their son Paul to the USA; until her death 1/20/46 she lived with daughter Jenny in Brooklyn,NY

Siegmund and Ida Stern had six (6) children:

1. Arthur Stern,b.O.11/3/1893; after 1918 lived in Frankfurt, 1924 moved to Saarbruecken, 1938 lived in Reims (France), 1939 moved to PARIS; 1940 visited his relatives in USA where he was surprised by entry of USA into war; he married, had a daughter, he died 1962, his wife 1974.
2. Moritz Stern,b. O. 5/13/1895; from 1909 - 1912 absolved an apprenticeship at Lorch/Bergstrasse in business.

From 1915 - 1918 he was a mounted scout at the Western Front; from 1918 - 1933 he worked in his father's business in O., in August 1933 he went to Paris where his wife followed two years alter. In February 1939 the couple emigrated to the USA and settled in Brooklyn, NY.

3. Selma Stern,b. O. 4/20/1897, d.9/24/1915 O, bd.Weyer
4. Jenny Stern,b.O. 12/4/1898, married Lorenz Geiss of O. He emigrated to USA 1926, his wife followed 1929; until his death 1963 they lived in Brooklyn,NY; today Jenny Geiss lives with widow of her brother Paul in New York.
5. Cilly Stern,b.O. 10/20/02, 1937 emigrated to USA, she is married to Manfred Strauss, the live in New York.
6. Paul Stern,b. O.4/5/05, emigrated to USA 1937, in WWII was drafted and was in Pacific until war's end.
1945 he started his own business in New York, shortly thereafter he married. Two sons were of this union, the oldest is a lawyer,



the younger still attends school. Paul Stern d.1964; his widow runs the business.

Siegmund Stern's younger brother Isaak was a merchant and owner of grocery in O. He married Rosa Levita,b.9/26/1864 Cramberg, d. O. 3/31/38, bd.Weyer.

The couple had four children:

1. Adolph Stern,b.0.21/8/1895, d.11/7/15 near Duenaburg,Russia.
2. Hedwig Stern, b.10/1/1895-0, married 3/25/29 cattle-trader Adolf Loewenstein (b.11/29/1892 Kirberg). They emigrated to USA.
3. Max Stern, b. O. 8/7/1900, ca.1935 emigrated to Holland, his last residence was Amsterdam, from there taken to KZ Westerbork, Sept. 1944 sent to Ghetto Theresienstadt, then to KZ Auschwitz, and 'transferred' to Buchenwald /23/45. There is no further trace.
4. Selma Stern, b.8/7/1900-0, married maerchant Max Altmann (b.8/17/02-Langenselbold/Kr.Hanau). Civil marriage O-7/30/31, Witnesses: Max Stern & Jakob Marx -0.

1939 the couple emigrated to USA via England, today live Los Angeles.

The trader Samuel Stern married 11/20/1872 Isabella Falk, daughter of trader Israel Falk of Breithardtm and his wife Sarah nè Joseph. b.10/27/1845 Breithardt, d. O. 3/26/13, bd.Weyer

This union produced six children:

1. Jette Stern, b. O. 8/20/1873, d. fall 1942 KZ Maly Trostinec
2. Bertha Stern, b. 8/10/1875 -0, married 7/3/03 to Salomon Besmann, trader at Mensfelden, b.6/20/1874, son of trader Abraham Besmann & wife Hennchen nè Marx.

1938 the couple emigrated to Haifa. Here they lived into old age. On 4/26/68 Salomon died almost 94 yrs.old. His widow Berta died 10/28/61 aged 86; they're buried in a familygrave in Haifa.

Of the odyssee of son Adolf Besmann, b.1904, today living at Naharija/Israel, I'll report later in detail after the overview of the family Stern.

3. Paula Stern, b.O. 6/4/1877, d.O. 12/10/1881, bd.Weyer
4. Siegfried Stern, b.O. 10/25/1879,d. 1945 in a KZ in Poland.
5. Joseph Stern,b. O. 8/30/1881, married 5/11/14 at Ober-Olm to Elisabeth Mayer, b. 5/17/1881 at Ober-Olm, dtr.of butcher Abraham Mayer,b.9/6/1853. Joseph settled at Mensfelden as a cattle trader, d. 1943 in a KZ in Poland.

6. Alfred Stern, b. O. 11/4/1884, married to Lina Giesenov. He was a primary school teacher, his last place of residence was Berlin. On 11/20/1942 he was taken by the Gestapo in Berlin and evacuated to Auschwitz. He probably died in the gas chamber.

Siegfried Stern took over his father's textile business. His older sister Jette remained single and lived in her brother's house. He married Sophie Frank, b. 9/27/1889 Nieder-Olmen, dtr.of Simon Frank, merchant & cattle dealer, and his wife Paulina né Moses. Two children came of this union:

1. Kurt Stern, b. 0.5/21/13, 1935 emigrated to USA, lives in NY. He is married and has a daughter Susan who is married since 1974.
2. Ilse Stern, b. O. 8/18/21; together with her brother she emigrated to USA 1935. She is married to Max A. Nussbaum; they have a son(Steven Jeffry) and today live in NY.

Oberamtsrat Franz Josef Stillger (Niederselters), who has for many years been interested in the history & present time of Israel, and who in numerous study-trips got to know the land and it's people, in the fall of 1974, at the author's request got in touch with Walter Stern, the son of Josef Stern, resident of Haifa since 1939, At my request he gave him a first draft of my work on the jews of Oberbrechen. Thru Walter Stern this copy also reached Adolf Besmann, his cousin, born 1904 at Mensfelden & who now lives at Naharija. The correpondence that followed between the two grandsons of Samuel Stern, b.O.1842, confirms my belief that Adolf Besmann is identical to the person whose adventuresome life is described by Paul Arnsberg in the 2.volume of his book: Die Juedischen Gemeinden in Hessen (The Jewish Communities in Hessen) . Arnsberg details, based on data from Joachum Warlies (Die Juden in Weilburg 1818-1940). He tells of the fate of a former inhabitant of Mensfelden, who for a short time lived in Weilburg, as an example of the wanderings of the german jews who were forced to leave their old homes with the advent of the NS-State. Even tho Adelf Besmann was no citizen of O. he was closely connected with this community thru his mother and her ancestors. Therefor his story must be included herein. Especially since Besmann permitted me to make appropriate corrections from data he supplied.



1933 the then 29-year old Adolf Besmann emigrated to France. Until 1935 he lived in Strassburg and southern France. 1935, he writes himself, he was expelled from France and went to Barcelona where he was surprised by civil war. He enlisted as volunteer in the republican Militia and served about a year at the front in Aragon. During a leave from the front in Barcelona he was arrested by the communist police, jailed for three weeks, and expelled over the french border as a troublesome foreigner. Again in France he lived in Paris until 1939. At the outbreak of World War II he and many like him immediately entered the French Army, and were sent to the Foreign Legion. Already New Years Eve 39/40 we boarded ship in Marseille for Africa. After the military breakdown of France summer 1940 we were discharged from the Legion and transferred to a work camp building roads as well as laying rails for the planned Trans-Sahara railway line. After the landings of the anglo-american Invasion army in fall 1942 our camp and others were dissolved. Directly, says Arnsberg, he entered the british army, and came to Palestine with british troops 1944. Besmann confirmed this data: I volunteered at the british consulate at Casablanca as a volunteer and in Algiers was ordered to an engineer corps, but only employed in the rear.

In Palestine Besmann's odyssey found a happy ending. After eleven years he was reunited with his parents and his sister and her family. Besmann writes: My parents left Mensfelden, and at the same time Germany, and moved to my sister in Haifa, the youngest of us three. There she operated a restaurant with her husband. My mother ran the household in my sister's absence, and my father's experience as butcher was helpful in the restaurant. When I came to them with the british army from North Africa they no longer owned the restaurant, and my father, already aged 70, worked in a british replacement depot. With advanced age my parents were able to obtain a small apartment in a senior home in Haifa, and were almost selfsufficient with the german restitution payments. About 1965 Domvikar (priest) Alexander Stein, who being a native of Lindenholzhaus knew the butcher and cattle-trader Salomon Besmann from the neighboring Mensfelden since childhood, went to see the now 90-year old at the senior home in Haifa. Stein had a friendly chat with Besmann, and was very pleased to have found

him so alert and apparently pleased to be able to speak with someone from his old hometown.

Adolf Besmann remains in touch with his old home. For years he's been visiting a health resort in the Black Forest with his paralyzed wife (she is from Daisbach and is a niece of Isaak Stern). During this time they always meet with his classmate Hermann Weil at Linter.

The investigation of that branch of the Stern family going back to Samuel Jessel's son Gumbrich had the following results:

Gumbrich Stern was married three times, the first time to Lia Abraham from Kroeffelbach/Kr.Wetzlar; the second time to Fanni Baum from Hasselbach/Amt Usingen, and the third time to Rosa Saalberg. Of the four children of the first two marriages three died at birth. Only Samuel Loeb Stern, the youngest of the union with Lia Abraham, survived.B.O.7/31/1842,d.0.1/11/1919, was buried in the Jews Cemetary at Weyer.

Like his ancestors Samuel Loeb Stern was a trader. But he had also learned the butchering trade and like his father was familiar with ritual slaughtering as was required for the animals permitted for food according to strict religous rules.

On 3/9/1871 he was married to Mienchen, daughter of the trader Moses Strauss from Heringen. She was born 7/16/1848 at Heringen and d. 0.8/31/1928. She was buried like all jews from Oberbrechen at the cemetary at Weyer.

Samuel Loeb & Mina Stern had eight children.

1. Moses Stern,b.0.2/26/1872. In 1886, after leaving the Volkschule at O. he hired on to an overseas steamer. As sailor on many different passenger and merchant ships he got to know the seas of the world and many countries. Either just before, or shortly after the 1st. World War he returned to O. and settled in his parents house as butcher, and trader of cattle and skins. After the mother's death his sister Dora kept house for him.

He died 10/9/42 in Ghetto Tehresienstadt.

2. Adolf Stern, b.0.8/25/1873

Owned a large cattle & horse trading business at Duisburg; married to Debora Kann (b.Duisburg 11/25/1880,d.4/11/55 at Valley City); 1942 emigrated from France to USA.D.Valley City,ND 11/23/46

Of Adolf Stern and his son Gustave as well as his brothers Julius, Gustav & Hermann more will follow in detail after this review of the family of Samuel Loeb Stern.

3. Sally Stern, b.0.10/16/1875; learned to be a cigarmaker and then worked in a local cigar shop. When this firm ceased production he moved to Essen. Here he married; died 1920 - 1930.

4. Julius Stern, b.0.9/11/1877, cattle dealer & butcher in Montabour; married Frieda Falkenstein from Meudt/Ww. D.after 1942 in KZ in Poland.

5. Gustav Stern, b.0.1/6/1880, merchant Gerolzhofen/Lower Franconia; married Selma Lewisohn of Gerolzhofen, 1937 emigration to USA, d.1944 Valley City,ND

6. Dora Stern, b.0.2/11/1883,d.0.6/14/1934.

In the death registry of the town the following is noted: Was found dead in her house 8/14/1934 by merchant Max Altmann, who also notified re her death.

7. Jettchen Stern, b.0.10/10/1884, m.7/16/1924 to cattle dealer Hugo Henlein from Langenbach (b.12/19/1884).

Until she married she was employed in a 'fine house' as cook. Shortly after the emigration Hugo Henlein d.1939 in New York. Today Jettchen Henlein lives in the house of her daughter's family (Lotte Ullmann) whose husband is from Haigerloch/Hohenzollern, in Brookly, NY. The couple Ullmann has a son (b.1952) and a daughter (b.1955)

8. Hermann Stern, b.0.8/10/1887, mercantile apprenticeship at Mainz & Casselton/USA; 1903 emigration to USA, since 1911 resident Valley City,ND, head of 'Strauss Co.of North Dakota', m.1912 Adeline Roth.

After completing school Adolf Stern learned to be a butcher. Like his brothers he left his birthplace O., not for political reasons, but 'because the financial situation of my grandparents' supposes Adolf Stern's son Gustav, 'which forced all the children to go away to earn their daily bread'. Since 1897 Adolf Stern is listed in the directories of Duisburg as journeyman butcher. 1906 his occupation is listed as cattle dealer, 1920/21 he is listed as owning a cattle & horse trading firm. 1935 he's listed as cattle dealer, and 1939, having already left Germany, as merchant. about 1900 he

married Debora Kann of Duisburg. On 5/16/1901 the oldest of two sons of this union, Gustav, was born, of whose extraordinary career mention will be made later.

Why his father settled in Duisburg Gustav Stern can no longer fathom. But he remembers this time, and from this, and from a large stack of Gestapo documents, it is clear that he was a highly respected citizen of the city, and no doubt was comfortable there. Gustav Stern writes: He was always an enthusiastic singer and at times was vice-president of the local singing club. He was also a highly thought of member of the Jewish congregation. Apparently the life style of the family, owners of the horse-trading firm Kann & Stern (the couple also owned three built-upon properties and an unbuilt one), not only because of business success, but also thru love of art as well as music, painting and the esthetic treasures of antique furniture and decorative art. Only during the barbaric actions of the Kristallnacht 1938, after a valuable collection of pictures and furniture was tossed out the window, did the couple realize that Duisburg & Germany could no longer be their home, that there was no way back. At the time Adolf & Dora happened to be in Paris where they had visited the family of their oldest son, on their return trip from the USA. Gustav Stern writes: A good fortune spared my parents from the gassing. They had been visiting his brother Hermann in ND. On their return they stopped in Paris where father was run down by a car and was in hospital & medical care for a long time. Meanwhile came the so-called Kristallnacht and further persecutions so that we did not let the parents return to Duisburg. Of the afore-mentioned Gestapo documents the events of this time are reconstructed. This is done because this will illustrate the machinations of the then state and party apparatus.

September 1937 Adolf & Dora Stern requested a triptyk for Holland & Belgium - the authorities had no doubts as to tax, criminal, political, and espionage activities of the applicants for such a border-crossing document for water and land vehicles. Apparently the couple travelled to the USA via Holland.



During the stay in PAris, prolonged because of the traffic accident, the passports expired. Therefor they applied for renewal/extension of the 1933 issued passports at the German Embassy so that after Adolf Stern's recuperation they could return to Duisburg without difficulty.

After heavy correspondence with various Gestapo and similar offices the passports were extended 4/25/38 (?) to 4/18/39. Meanwhile they were not treated as emigrants, but after the occurrences in Germany (Kristallnacht, etc) they let themselves be persuaded not to return to Duisburg and stay in Paris with their son's family.

On 6/9/41 they lost their citizenship as per a law of 1933. A letter from Gestapo Berlin to head of police for the occupied areas, Paris office, Since they are living in occupied territory they are to be apprehended for collective deportation. "In case valuta and property is still in country it is requested that they be secured and reported....." (Property was sold and proceeds sequestered according to then laws) Together with Gustav's family Adolf & Dora Stern fled to the un-occupied part of France and from there emigrated to the USA. Until their deaths they lived in Valley City,ND, in the city where Hermann Stern, Samuel Loeb Stern's youngest son already lived over six decades.

As already mentioned, Adolf & Debora Stern had two sons. The younger, Juliusalready went to USA in 1925 at his uncle Hermann Stern's urging. In Chicago he married Herta Tand from Leipzig. Their two sons Larry & Franklin both live in Chicago; their father died 1972.

The brother Gustav Stern,b.D.1901, since 1945 lives in Seattle and was for 26 years musical director of this city on the US west coast, the capital of the state of Washington(sic) Based on his own reports as well as publicity in german and american newspapers, an attempt will be made to portray the artist, pedagogue & musician Gustav Stern.

In his hometown Duisburg he attended a higher school.

Apparently his parents early on recognized his musical talents



and were prepared to further his education towards a musical-artistic career. The artistic atmosphere in his home since early childhood stimulated him and no doubt prepared him for his career.

In O. where he regularly spent his school vacations with his grandparents, and as he writes: fell into the creek with other kids from the village; contemporaries remember him as the best pianist from Duisburg.

In the Seattle 'Post-Intelligencer' of 6/4/67 appeared: Pianist Gustave Stern never slowed down; a detailed and affectionate article in his honor by Charles Russell, who spoke of his life: He takes two steps at a time and never uses an elevator unless it's higher than seven floors, in order to keep in shape as testified by his slender figure. His heart is young and he plans to keep it that way..... A review of his life showing that he began early on to take two steps at a time and never slowed down. He played the piano before he was five years old.....at 19 conducted... and at 25 fully accredited singing teacher.....

After his Abitur Gustave Stern studied music in Duesseldorf, Leipzig and Cologne. At my request for a review of his career he wrote a.o.: I was conductor...choir director...signing teacher. I studied piano under the famous musician Dr. Otto Neitzel who taught at the conservatory at Duesseldorf. Scheinpflug, Teichmueller, Graener and Nikisch were the masters under whom I studied in Leipzig and Cologne. At several theatres in Germany I was music director and conductor. In addition I conducted choirs in Duisburg. His great talent is obvious since at an early age he was a pupil of world renowned conductors and pianists.

Otto Neitzel (1875-1920) was highly regarded as pianist, composer and musical writer. Particularly in the USA he was highly regarded as pianist and music theoretician.

Paul Scheinpflug (1875-1937) was conductor and composer. He led various orchestras in german cities, a.o.Bremen, Berlin, Dresden. 1920-1928 he was general musical director in Duisburg.

Robert Teichmueller (1863-1939) was pianist and music teacher. From 1897 until his death he taught at Leipzig, one of the most able piano teachers of his time. He was also important as a musical writer.

Paul Graener (1872-1944) was composer, conductor, and from 1920-'24

successor to Max Reger as teacher of composition at the Leipzig conservatory.

Arthur Nikisch (1855-1922) was one of the great conductors of his time. Before in 1893 he began leading the Gewandhaus orchestra at Leipzig, he conducted in Boston and Budapest. He was also guest conductor at Berlin, Hamburg & St. Petersburg. He made several large concert tours with the Berliner Philharmoniker. He was also deputy headmaster at the Leipzig conservatory. Nikisch was the first great conductor who appeared in the great metropolis' of Europe and the USA, a small elegant man with a quiet demeanor and who could inspire musicians.....

As a result of this training Gustave Stern became known as pianist, conductor and teacher way beyond Duisburg.

(More encomiums follow - but not pertinent-tr)

The disastrous year 1933 interrupted suddenly and pitilessly the career begun with such high hopes. Russell writes:.....As opera director trained in Germany he directed operas there and in France. As municipal conductor he was an official and as such one of the first to feel the result of Hitler's reign.....Hitler Germany had no room for a jewish conductor. The Sterns left Germany 1933 and spent the next nine years in Paris. He worked in music, but also took whatever other work he could get in order to support his growing family. (In 1928 he married Gertrud Vasen of Duisburg/Ruhrort; they had two sons and live in Seattle. Michel Stern is a lawyer and John H. owns a mens wear shop.) Gustave writes further..... after many adventures and the flight from occupied to un-occupied France, uncle Hermann made it possible for us to come to the US. We lived in New York City, Chicago, and Fargo, ND where I worked for two years as salesman in one of uncle Hermann's stores. 1945 we moved to Seattle where I could again work at my occupation. I taught at the local Catholic University, conducted & produced operas and operettas and was until 1971 music director of the city, producing Broadway musicals with famed personalities. Also I gave singing lessons and many of my former students sing on famous stages. Now at age 73 I retired. And more & more - not really pertinent.....

Julius Stern, b.1877, like his brother Adolf, learned to be a butcher. His military service was with the 14 Dragoon regiment in Colmar,

Alsace (then german-tr) and advanced to Private First Class. 1905 he married Frieda Falkenstein from Meudt/Westerwald. After marrying he started his own cattle trading business & butchershop. As his son Gustav of NYC advises he was in service from the first to the last in WWI. - Unlike their three children they decided against emigration or they missed the proper time -?_(Ludwig went to France 1935 where he died; Gustav 1936 to USA where he works as a purchasing agent for a textile firm; Alice 1938-USA) On 7/13/38 Julius Stern sold his 8.33 ar property for RM 16,000 to a bank employee from Montabaur; but per contract the couple could stay in the house until 5/1/39 (contract excerpts.....) From May 1940 they lived at Ostendsr.11, Frankfurt. Probaly this was because like so many who were unable to emigrate at the beginning of WW2 they were evacuated forcibly. After the move Julius had to report his finaces to the finance office at Kassel. So by May 1940 the couple Julius STern owned RM 1,852. His expenses were RM 300 monthly, for food, shelter & clothing as well as chsrity. On this basis a special account was set up at a Frankfurt bank and monthly withdrawals of RM 300. March 1942 this amount was reduced to RM 210. Apparently before 7/13/42 they must have been deported to a KZ in the east. The balance of their account was confiscated by the Reich. As reported by son Gustav, his parents died in a KZ, since they were deported from Frankfurt there has been no word. Gustav Stern has two daughters, the oldest - Joan - is a professor at a university & is married to a doctor, the younger, Francis, is a doctor in New York.

Gustav Stern,b.1880, after leaving school learned business. December 1914 he married Selma Lewisohn, daughter of a clothingstore owner at Geroldshofen/Unterfranken. After marriage he became a partner in his father-in-law's buisness He was a soldier during WW1 and became an english prisoner. the couple emigrated to the USA 1937, a few years after the 1915-born daughter Klara and the 1918-born son Eric, who at the suggestion of their uncle Hermann already emigrated to America 1929 reps.1934. Gustav & Selma at first lived in Chicago, 1940 they moved to Valley City,ND. Since Gustav had a serious heart condition he was unable to work steadily. He died 1944. After his death his widow returned to Chicago where she died 1965 aged 80.



Eric Stern owns a men's shop in Chicago. During WW2 he served in the American army. He is married to Lotte Hahn from Gerolshofen and has two sons, Leslie & Richard, both students.

After he emigration Klara Stern at first lived with her uncle Hermann at Valley City. She is married to Erich Wagner, from Rehns near Koblenz. Today the family of four of daughter Sandra - who has a son Robert, as well as the parents live near Chicago; nearby also lives Eric Stern & family.

Musical director Gustave Stern, with good reason, calls Hermann Stern, his father's younger brother, the most eminent of his family. Hermann Stern, now 88 and remarkably well physically and mentally (Four years ago he and his wife visited O.) began his business career as a business apprentice at Mainz. Already two years later, 1903 aged 16, he emigrated to the USA. At Casselton he continued the interrupted apprenticeship in a men's wear shop owned by M.G.Strauss, from Heringen, who owned a chain of men's shops in the USA. 1911, as a 24-year old, Hermann became manager of a new store at Valley City. His business and organizational skill were the basis for the 'Strauss Co. of ND' and that this large trading firm today owns 6 large, modern stores in Fargo, Valley City, Grand Forks & Jamestown.

1912 Hermann married the German-born Adeline Roth, and had two sons, Richard & Edward. Three years ago the couple was able to celebrate a rare diamond wedding anniversary.

The reason for the penny-less apprentice rise to head a large business was undoubtedly due to his communal, social and socio-political engagement as well as his ability to deal with people irrespective of education, age, sex, and nationality. He is particularly interested in youth: over 50 years he's been a member of the Boy Scouts National Committee - which recently honored him with their highest decoration. Addressed to youth is also his writing: Good Rules to Achieve Pride of Accomplishment, publ. approx. 2 years ago. (Quotations follow.....)

Hermann Stern is founder and was the first president of 'Greater North Dakota Association. He was a pioneer in the truest sense of the word for the state that has been his home for six decades.



He organized the first winter exposition in ND. On his initiative funds were raised for a large fairgrounds at Valley City. 1972, the golden jubilee of the G.N.D.Assn. ...much was written about him and in his honor The founding of the GNDA was attended by businessmen from all over the state as well as Minneapolis and St.Paul. They raised about \$ 6,500.- to begin their advertising campaign (to put ND on the map-tr)

.....there was much needed to be done for the farms and the general economy ... the farmers still speak of the introduction of rust-resistant wheat and other improved seeds,With the assistance of the railroads criss-crossing the state a campaign was launched to bring in better cattle.....

His nephew Gustave Stern calls Hermann a true humanitarian. And to Hermann humane acts were routine, as espoused in his Jewish religion - which always says to help others, irrespective of who they are.

The Honorary (?-Ehrenbuerger) citizen of Valley City was tendered a brilliant reception by then Governor Link at Fargo, to which 400 guests were invited. The press reported with many pages and pictures, and Gov. Link, Bishop Leiske of Dallas, TX and leading personalities of the Boy Scouts congratulated him grandly. And in spite of his great age Hermann showed no signs of fatigue. Two sentences of his remarks are:"We owe it to God to continue" and " My work gives me more pleasure than trouble"

At the end of the 1870s or early 1880s the cattle dealer Hermann Blumenthal settled in Oberbrechen. He was b. Weyer 12/28/1858. About 1930 he with his family moved to Wiesbaden-Erbenheim. His house & business were taken over by Siegfried Lichtenstein, b. Muenster, who lived in Schmitten before moving to O. He was married thrice:

- 1.) Johanna Frank,b.9/27/1855 Bechtheim/Rheinhessen
d.4/16/1899 - o, bd.Weyer
2. Sophie Mannheimer
3. Mathilde Kahn

The following children came of these three marriages:

1. Betti Blumenthal, b.0.4/15/1885
2. A girl - no name - shortly after birth



3. Lina Blumenthal, b.4/10/1887 - o; d.1931
4. Heinrich Blumenthal,b.O.3/18/1889; fell WW1
5. Otto Blumenthal, b.O.11/11/1890
6. Mina Blumenthal,b.O.5/14/1893
7. Elsa - b.O. 1/18/1895 - shortly after emigration to USA
was killed in automobile accident.
8. Bernhard - 10/1/1900 - o, d.11/5/68 - Erding,Bavaria
9. Richard - b.O. 8/5/1902 .After 1933 he was mortally injured
in a possibly political fight.
10. Carl,b.O. 12/31/03, emigrated to US end of 1920s. When he left
many friends and relatives bade him a sentimental
goodby. He lives in Chicago with his family.
11. Gertrud , b.O.2/11/14,d.O.5/24/14, bd.Weyer
12. Manfred - b.O.1/12/23. Moved to Wiesbaden with his aparents end
of 1920s. Efforts to obtain further data have been unsuccessful.

Siegfried Liechtenstein, cattle dealer like Hermann Blumenthal,
with his family lived in O. just a bit over ten eyars. He was born
2/8/1894 at Muenster (Oberlahnkreis). Married Flora,b.12/17/1898
at Schmitten. They had two children:

1. Irene,b.Schmitten 6/9/22 Schmitten
2. Kurt,b.11/28/25 Schmitten

1938 the family emigrated to South America. Now they live in Buenos
Aires.

.....now follows a lengthy discussion dealing with local
and political matters as well as local social.

On pp.202 is a listing of children who attended the local school
(Volkschule) from 1870 thru 1932.

.....more detail follows.....





**End of [Jewish citizens in
Oberbrechen 1711-1941].**

